

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, IR

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER EIGHT NEWS BRIEFING TRANSCRIPT

FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF SEPT. SPOKESMAN'S
SEPTEMBER 8 NOON PRESS BRIEFING PERTAINING TO IRAN:

Q. WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON THE SITUATION IN IRAN?
IT SEEMS TO BE GETTING RATHER SERIOUS, AND THERE ARE
REPORTS OF ABOUT 250 PEOPLE BEING KILLED.

A. LET ME NOTE FIRST THAT THE SAME CURFEW LAWS THAT
APPLY TO IRANIAN CITIZENS APPLY TO OUR PEOPLE AS WELL,
WHICH AFFECTS OUR ABILITY TO HAVE TOO MUCH INDEPENDENT
INFORMATION. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, ONLY FRAGMENTARY
AND INCOMPLETE REPORTS AND CANNOT JUDGE THE SCOPE OR
THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DISORDERS.

I'M JUST NOT GOING TO BE IN ANY POSITION TO COMMENT
OR VERIFY PRESS REPORTS ABOUT IT. WE, OF COURSE, HOPE
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FOR THE QUICKEST POSSIBLE RESTORATION OF ORDER.

THE MARTIAL LAW WHICH PERTAINS ALSO INCLUDES THE
CURFEW THAT I MENTIONED, WHICH IS FROM 9 PM TO 5 AM.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY REPORTS OF INJURIES TO AMERICANS. THE

THE EMBASSY IS ADVISING CITIZENS TO ACT PRUDENTLY AND

TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS THAT THE SITUATION CALLS FOR, INCLUDING AVOIDING CROWDS AND STAYIN AWAY FROM POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME AREAS.

THE AIRPORT IS OPEN, BUT WITH THE CURFEW, ANYONE ARRIVING AFTER 9 PM WILL HAVE TO REMAIN AT THE AIRPORT UNTIL 5 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

Q. HODDING, ARE YOU SAYING THAT AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ARE SUBJECT TO THE CURFEW ALSO?

A. I'M SAYING THAT ALL PEOPLE IN THAT TERRITORY ARE SUBJECT TO THE CURFEW, AND THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU CAN'T UNDOUBTEDLY GO TO AN OFFICIAL MEETING WITH SOME KIND OF ESCORT. I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT THE ABILITY TO ROAM THE STREETS IS LIMITED, AS IT IS FOR EVERYBODY.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES TAKING ANY ACTIONS, DUSTING OFF ANY CONTINGENCY PLANS, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE SO MANY AMERICANS THERE AND SO MUCH AMERICAN INVESTMENT AND THAT KIND OF THING?

A. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY AND I DO NOT KNOW OF SUCH. YOU KNOW, THERE ARE ALWAYS CONTINGENCY PLANS IN ANY COUNTRY, BUT I KNOW OF NOTHING BEING "DUSTED OFF",
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AS YOU REFER TO IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY MATERIAL ON THE SITUATION AS IT IS NOW? ARE YOU CONCERNED? IT IS MORE SERIOUS THAN IN THE PAST?

A. I THINK I HAVE TO REFER BACK TO WHAT I SAID, WHICH IS: WE SIMPLY ARE NOT IN MUCH OF A POSITION TO JUDGE THE SCOPE OR MAGNITUDE OF THE DISORDERS. WHEN THAT CHANGES I'LL TRY TO BE MORE HELPFUL TO YOU, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN THE WAY OF AN ASSESSMENT THAT I CAN OFFER. CHRISTOPHER

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